Theravada Buddhist 8 Plus Lay Preceptee Association

18 May 2026

https://8plusprecepts.pacceka.org/

WE ARE

an informal association of Lay Theravada Buddhists who have received 8 Plus precepts from a Theravada Bhikkhu/Bhikkhuni including the following initiates:

- Bodhicaris (Ministers; 12 precepts)
- Dhammacaris (Teachers; 9 precepts)
- Ajivatthamaka Sila Recipients (Practitioners; 8 precepts)
- Eight Lifetime Precepts (Practitioners; 8 precepts)
- Atthangika Uposatha Sila (Practitioners; 8 Uposatha Precepts)
- Sangha Authorized Dhamma Teachers (Teachers; 5 precepts)
- *but not Upasika/Upasaka (Practitioners; 5 precepts)*

OUR PURPOSE

is to support each other through networking and informal discussions on the meaning, challenges, goals and other details of serving in these roles.

HISTORY

The Bodhicari Ordination/Initiation and the Sri Lankan version of Dhammacari initiation were created by Bhante Dr. Walpola Piyananda (Chief Sangha Nayaka of America) and the late Bhante Dr. Havanpola Ratanasara in the early 1980s at Dharma Vihara Buddhist Vihara in Los Angeles. Since then about 30 or 40 Bodhicaris have been ordained/initiated there and many more Dhammacaris.

This association was first envisioned by Bhante Piyananda, who wrote in *SHARING BUDDHISM IN THE WESTERN WORLD* (ISBN 978-0-692-18862-0, printed by https://www.budaedu.org/ in 2018) about the Upasaka, Dhammacari, and Bodhicari initiations:
"It is my intention to make the expansion of this three-step program towards full Buddhist lay minister ordination a focus of the next period of my life. I will re-introduce this idea to the abbots of all of the Sri Lankan and other Theravada Buddhist temples in North America, many of whom are not familiar with the process. I will encourage all of them to introduce this system to the members of their temples, and teach interested lay practitioners how this path works, and how it would work for them. It is also my intention to see the creation of an Association of Bodhicaris. This would enable individual members to strengthen and support one another in their geographical areas, and they could be linked by teleconferencing seminars, an interactive website, and internet group. Current and future Bodhicaris in our network can look forward to an announcement to this effect in early 2019."

Bhante Piyananda, our chief patron, met with Bodhicari Bodhi on Feb 8 2025 at Dharma Vijaya and approved the creation of this informal association.

Bodhicarini Jayasili (in Northern England) has been meeting monthly with Bodhicari Bodhi (in Pittsburgh PA) over zoom since March 8 2025 to further this networking effort.

MONTHLY ZOOM MEETINGS

Monthly meetings for Bodhicaris, and twice quarterly meeting for Bodhicaris and all 8+ preceptees (Dhammacaris, Ajivatthamaka Sila, Eight Lifetime Precepts, Atthangika Uposatha Precepts and Sangha Authorized Dhamma Teachers).

PATRONS

Bhante Walpola Piyananda of the Dharmavijaya Vihara in Los Angeles is the Chief Patron. Venerable Wathogala Saranasiri Thero and the monks of Sambuddhaloka Buddhist Vihara and Bhante Sumitta of Dhamma USA are supporting Patrons.

WRITTEN RESOURCES

For precepts, chanting and general information.